

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending; claims 12-23 are withdrawn; claims 1 and 3 are amended herein; claims 2, 4 and 8-11 are cancelled; claims 24-27 are added, and therefore claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 24-27 remain for consideration.

Claims 1 and 5-11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,495,792. The Examiner states that a timely filed terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection.

Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the limitations of claim 2, and new independent claim 24 is added to include the limitations of claims 1 and 4. It is therefore respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and new claim 24 are in allowable form. Moreover, claims 3 and 5-7 each ultimately depend from allowable claim 1, and are therefore deemed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth for claim 1. Further, new claims 25-27 (which are similar to claims 5-7) each ultimately depend from allowable claim 24, and are therefore deemed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth for claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 24-27 are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicant is filing a Petition for Extension of time to file this Response. A check in the amount of \$220.00 is included to cover the extension fee (\$110.00) for one month, and the fee for filing the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer (\$110.00).

No additional fees or deficiencies in fees are believed to be owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any such fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By *Daniel G. Mackas*

Daniel G. Mackas
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,541

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3402
(860) 549-5290